

Celebrants reflect on years with K mart

At this year's service recognition luncheon several employees recalled how they started with the company and why they have stayed with K mart. It seems that they hired in years ago, only planning to stay a short while. Then, they got comfortable, enjoyed working for the company and with the people and before they knew it, they had logged 10, 15, 20 even 30 years.

"I was only going to stay for six months," says Mary Kae Thursam, legal, who celebrated her 20th year with K mart. "I started out in the mailroom, worked there for a very short time, then went to advertising. After returning from maternity leave I started working in legal and have been here ever since. It's the people that keep me here. My husband and I have played ball with many, been to communions, seen births and deaths. You get involved with so many good people."

Dave Toporek, CSD, celebrated his 10 year anniversary. Says Toporek, "My dad has been with the same company for 40 years. I guess you like to follow in your parent's footsteps." Dave started out as a stockperson, moved to the bursting room and into CSD as an equipment ordering technician.



Mary Kae Thursam, legal.



Grant Morck, executive vice president store management, congratulates Eleanor Kulik on her 40 year anniversary.

Wilma Williams, MOPS, says that she thought she might be with the company for a few years and never dreamed that she would be celebrating a 20 year anniversary. "I started out in mailing and then worked in men's wear for about 18 years. I never thought I'd be here for 20 years, though."

Dennis Brakke, KE, has been with the company for 15 years. "I originally intended to be a sports coach, or a teacher, but there was an abundance of teachers by the time I got out of school, so I chose retailing, and I've been with the company ever since."

Annie Vargas, expense KE, started in mailing five years ago. "I thought I'd stay a couple of months when I hired in. I never thought that I'd be here five years."

Board Chairman Bernard Fauber, gave the official welcome to over 500 luncheon celebrants and commented that so many have been involved in the company's new systems and programs. He says that 22 years ago the S.S. Kresge Company relied solely on the five and ten cent store

concept. Now we have a whole new line, the discount department store.



Regina Przybylowicz, supervisor, cleaning staff, 25 year celebrant, at the afternoon shift's celebrant's dinner.